

**UN Human Rights Council
17th Session of the Working Group of the UPR
Review of Congo**

Geneva, October 2013

Statement by Armenia

Thank you Mr President

Armenia welcomes the delegation of Congo and thanks them for the national report.

We take note of the positive changes since the last UPR report, particularly the legislative and policy measures undertaken by the Government of Congo to improve the human rights situation in the country.

We would like to note the Act on protection of children in the Republic of Congo (2010), which particularly prohibits employment of underage children, enlistment or use of children in any form of armed conflicts, as well as trafficking or sale of children.

In this regard we also value the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Armenia welcomes the measures taken to increase the role of women in the society and to ensure gender equality in the country. We encourage to increase the efforts aimed to ensure equality of women as regards to ownership of property, access to employment and political activities.

Armenia would like to make the following recommendations:

1. to continue the efforts towards improving the human rights conditions in Congo, especially through integrating human rights into the educational system in order to raise the awareness about human rights;
2. to ensure that both boys and girls have equal access to education;
3. to consider ratifying the convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

I thank you, Mr President